



The Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine
ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2025

WORKPLACES IN TRANSITION: The future for occupational health

19-22 October 2025 | The Langham, Melbourne

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM
PARTNER



PLATINUM SPONSOR



SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

11.00am – 1.00pm

ANZSOM General Council Meeting

2.00 pm – 3.00pm

CPR Skills Update

6.30pm – 9.30pm

Welcome Reception
Alto Room, The Langham

Proudly sponsored by Sonic HealthPlus



MONDAY 20 OCTOBER

9.00am – 9.30am

Conference opening

Dr Dominic Yong - ANZSOM President
Dr Armand Casolin – AFOEM President

9.30am – 10.30am

AFOEM Ferguson-Glass Oration

Occupational health in transition

Prof Ewan B Macdonald CBE, University of Glasgow

Proudly supported by RACP and AFOEM



Australasian Faculty of
Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Specialists caring for workers' health

MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11.00am – 1.00pm

**PANEL: Psychosocial hazards:
from prevention to work injury
management**

Chair: Dr Mary Wyatt

*Featuring psychosocial experts and
regulatory authority representatives,
this panel session will explore the
intersection between preventing
workplace psychosocial hazards and
delivering effective post-injury care*

Sam Sellwood, Head Strong Workplaces

Amy Salmon, WorkSafe Victoria

Nathan Lee, Safe Work Australia

Dr Rob McDonald, Velari Health

Dr Peter Prasad, Qantas Group

**Session proudly sponsored by WorkSafe
Victoria**



**Innovating occupational health:
leveraging emerging technologies**

Chair: Dr Ye Myat Ko

*New technologies are emerging and
disrupting traditional ways of accomplishing
tasks. While they may significantly improve
our quality of life and work efficiency, they
also present new challenges. In this session,
four experts will explore emerging
technologies within the occupational health
setting, helping you to understand their roles
and potential impacts on our future.*

Robotics - Potential use and misuse?

Professor Herman Tse, Monash Business
School

**Emerging technologies across the net-zero
transition – what do we need to think about
from an environmental health perspective**

Dr Jen Martin, Environmental Protection
Authority Victoria

MONDAY 20 OCTOBER

Use of VR for managing chronic pain
Ben Sheat, Reality Health

The latest trends in predictive/forecast monitoring (including real-time) for workplace hazards

Geza Benke, Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists

Session proudly sponsored by Jobfit



LUNCH & EXHIBITION

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2.00pm – 5.00pm

Navigating the new legal landscape - practical implications for respiratory testing and psychosocial hazard prevention

Chair: Sandra Code

Three dynamic speakers will shed practical light on new legal requirements in relation to spirometry, respiratory fit testing and psychosocial hazard prevention.

The new legal requirements and the common challenges for conducting spirometry effectively

Claire O'Sullivan, Alfred Health

Overview on the workplace respiratory fit testing program and legal requirements

Crystal Poulson, Fit Test Victoria

Overview and requirement of psychosocial hazard prevention, and key to both legislative compliance and risk reduction

Leanne Drew-McKain,
The National Psychosocial Safety Network

Session proudly sponsored by Anitech



WORKSITE VISITS

Werribee Open Range Zoo

Americold

Rio Tinto Technical Development Centre

ANSTO Australian Synchrotron

Australian Federal Police - K9 Australian Border Force

6.30pm – 9.30pm

Nurses' Dinner

Proudly sponsored by Sonic HealthPlus



TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

8.00am – 8.45am

Journal Club - Cultural Safety

Dr Thea Leman and Associate Professor Anthony Brown

Dr Thea Leman will facilitate discussion on this important issue, which is designated as a required activity by the RACP for 2025.

[Lin I, Green C, Bessarab D. 'Yarn with me': applying clinical yarning to improve clinician-patient communication in Aboriginal health care. Aust J Prim Health. 2016 Nov;22\(5\):377-382](#)

9.00am – 10.00am

Keynote Presentation

Occupational history detective work: sentinel events

Professor Paul Blanc, University of California, San Francisco

Proudly sponsored by Lung Foundation Australia



MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10.30am – 12.30pm

Workplace frontiers: occupational health & safety in emerging industries

Chair: Dr Harry Chow

The first and second industrial revolutions occurred over 200 years ago, and today's progress is more evolutionary, marked by incremental changes. Some of these changes aim to reduce costs, others to enhance efficiency, and still others to protect our planet. Regardless of the reasons, these emerging industries will propel us to new frontiers, bringing both risks and rewards. While we may not have answers to all possible outcomes, we are courageous and inquisitive, and our Eureka moments will come. In this session we will explore some of these emerging industries and implications for workers' health.

Harnessing nuclear power safely

Dr Cath Kelaher, Department of Defence

Powering the future: The occupational health impact of new battery technologies

Professor Amanda Ellis, University of Melbourne

From sun to sustainability: Recycling solar panels

Darren Johannesen, Smart Energy Council

The new era: Decarbonising the resources industry & innovating efficiency

Amy Lamb, Rio Tinto

Session proudly sponsored by Department of Health, Disability & Ageing



Mental health and the workplace

Chair: Dr Tina Ko

This stream will explore some of the intricacies of assessing and managing mental health in the workplace. Reflecting our broader conference theme, we will be looking at the application and challenges associated with using AI transcription. We will also hear about the new National Centre for Workplace Mental Health and Wellbeing. This will be followed by an exploration of some of the more complex mental health conditions that you may encounter in practice, and some insights on how to approach these situations.

AI transcription and yellow flags

Maree Lane, Australian Psychological Society

Shift work, mental health, and building mentally healthy workplaces Australia: a path forward

Professor Shanthakumar Wilson Rajaratnam, Monash University

Complex PTSD in the workplace

Associate Professor Andrew Carroll, Victorian Department of Health

Complex mental illness and employment

Shannon Lang, WISE IDEA
Anne Miles, WISE IDEA

Session proudly sponsored by EML



TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

LUNCH & EXHIBITION

AFOEM Curriculum Update

Associate Professor Tony Brown and Elanor Darton-Rooke (RACP)
Clarendon A & B

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1.30pm – 3.00pm

PANEL: Occupational lung disease

Chair: Lauren Williams

This panel of leading experts, including respiratory and occupational physicians, regulators, and international voices, will explore the evolving landscape of pneumoconiosis, from silica, asbestos, and coal dust. They will discuss the global burden of disease, cutting-edge diagnostics, and emerging treatments, as well as successful prevention strategies, health surveillance innovations, and the role of national registries.

Professor Paul Blanc, University of California, San Francisco

Emeritus Professor Malcolm Sim, Monash University

Dr Catherine Jones, I-MED Radiology

Dr Ryan Hoy, Monash University

Perdita Dickson, WorkSafe Victoria

Session proudly sponsored by Sonic HealthPlus



Health of healthcare workers

Chair: Sally Kane

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to our attention the gaps in occupational health and safety in the healthcare sector. Ongoing research highlights the high prevalence of burnout, workplace violence, exposures and musculoskeletal conditions. This session will explore the issues facing healthcare workers, potential solutions and the role of occupational health professionals, now and into the future.

Health of healthcare workers – why and how?

Adjunct Professor Alison McMillan PSM, Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer

Improving the health of healthcare workers

Dr Alexandra Muthu, Occupational and Environmental Physician, RACP Health of Healthcare Workers Working Group

A framework for occupational health delivery in healthcare services

Frank Evola, Staff Health Manager, Murrumbidgee Local Health District, NSWHealth

AFTERNOON TEA

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3.30pm – 5.15pm

Planetary health

Chair: Dr Dominic Yong

This session explores two critical aspects of planetary health: the global differences in PFAS health-based guideline values and the challenges of risk communication, alongside lessons learned from COVID-19 in workplace management. The first presentation examines how varying national regulations impact public messaging and safety strategies for addressing PFAS contamination. The second is a panel discussion on pandemic preparedness, highlighting key takeaways from COVID-19 related to occupational health, resilience, and future workplace adaptations. Together, these discussions provide valuable insights into environmental risk and organisational preparedness in an evolving world.

WORKSHOP – Ethics and behaviour in occupational medicine

Chair: Sandra Code

Highlighting the importance of this aspect of practice, 'ethics and behaviour' is designated by RACP as a required activity for CPD in 2025. The session will be based on case studies, using small group discussion to illustrate the key principles and develop critical thinking.

Associate Professor Anthony Brown, Tandyhaven Consulting

Dr David Goddard, Monash University

Dr Abhishek Verma, AHPRA

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

PFAS Guidelines Around the World: Navigating Differences & Risk Communication Challenges

Dr Antti Mikkonen, Environment Protection
Authority Victoria

The next pandemic: what we have learned from COVID about managing workplaces

Professor Allen Cheng, Monash University

Dr Rob McDonald, Velari Health

Dr Cath Kelaher, Department of Defence

6.30pm – 10.30pm

Conference Dinner

SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium

Dress code: Cocktail

Proudly sponsored by MedHealth



WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER

8.30am – 9.15am

ANZSOM Annual General Meeting

9.30am – 10.15am

Hugh Denehy Oration

OHS supporting the climate change transition

Dr Bruce Hocking

10.15am – 10.30am

2025 Ramazzini Winner Presentation

Dr David Cleveland

Proudly sponsored by Sonic HealthPlus



MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11.00am – 1.00pm

**Clinical aspects of safety-critical
work**

Chair: Dr Bruce Hocking

The assessment of safety-critical workers regarding their fitness for duty is a significant aspect of occupational medicine. This session provides an update on recent advances in the diagnosis and management of some key medical conditions, including sleep disorders, diabetes and substance misuse. A new approach to the determination of necessary cardiorespiratory function for the setting of standards is also covered.

Advances in sleep disorders and safety-critical work

Professor Mark Howard, Austin Health

Contributed papers

Chair: Rebecca Dingle

Judges: Dr Cath Kelaher, Dr Dominic Yong and Robyn Laurie

The contributed papers session is a vital aspect of the ANZSOM annual conference, providing an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to showcase their work and encourage delegates to reflect on the relevance to their own practice.

Where is health promotion in current Australian workplaces – a focus group and interview study

Yanming Lu

New technologies in managing diabetes in safety-critical workers: opportunities and pitfalls

Professor Alicia Jenkins, Baker Institute

Determining cardio-respiratory standards for safety-critical workers

Dr Andrew Lingwood, OccPhyz Consulting

Managing substance misuse in aviation pilots

Dr Sean Runacres, SAR Aviation Medicine

Session sponsored by Alcolizer Technology



Eliminating mesothelioma and asbestos-related diseases in low-and middle-income countries through capacity building and advocacy for national bans on asbestos production and use

Shane McArdle

Acute exposure risks to lithium battery failure

Dr Paul McLucas

Working overseas (joining the resources boom)

Dr John Schneider

Changing health behaviours and risks among Thai healthcare workers (2017-2024): trends across professions in a transitioning workplace

Dr Sawanee Srijaronetham

Respiratory symptoms, airflow obstruction and asthma in a cohort of workers from the stone benchtop industry

Dr Dunya Tomic

Transforming workplaces through clinical excellence: my journey to nurse practitioner practice in occupational and primary health

Helen Truscott

Monash Student Award presentation

Red gloves and unfurled threads: the tapestry of the history

Angelica Haskins

LUNCH & EXHIBITION

PARALLEL SESSIONS

2.00pm – 5.15pm

WORKSHOP - Occupational Hygiene

Aleks Todorovic, Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists

This interactive workshop is designed to strengthen participants' understanding of occupational hygiene through hands-on demonstrations, expert-led discussions, and practical case studies. Attendees will explore key topics, including how to read and interpret occupational hygiene reports, strategies for improving communication between occupational hygienists and other health professionals, and changes in regulatory compliance. A highlight of the session will be the demonstration of commonly used monitoring devices to showcase their applications in identifying environmental hazards.

Session proudly sponsored by Tibi Healthcare



WORKSITE VISITS

MainStream Aquaculture

Labelmakers

Barry Callebaut Chocolate Factory

Metro Tunnel

Melbourne Zoo